the randicapped persons including mentally retarded persons and children;

(i) Scheme of assistance to Non-Govenmentai organisations for the disabled;

(ii) Scheme of assistance to Non-Governmental organisations for establishment of Special Schools; and

(iii) Scheme of assistance to Non-Governmental organisations for manpower development for cerebral palsied and mentally retarded.

(b) It is proposed to establish a National Trust for the Mentally Re tarded.

(c) The number of mentally retarded persons including children who have benefitted from these schemes is 13,734 during 1993-94.

(d) Yes. Sir.

Amount spent towards welfare Schemes in 1993-94

7283. SHRI MISA R. GANESAN:
SHRI TINDIVANAM G. VENKATARAMAN:

Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the amount spent during the financial year 1993-94 towards welfare schemes in the country;

(b) whether these welfare schemes have given special attention to backward and most backwad classes;

(c) if not, what are the reasons therefor; and

(d) if so, what are the welfare schemes specially earmarked for backward and most backward classes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WELFARE (SHRI K. V. THANGKA BALU): (a) A total amount of Rs. 1013.93 crore has been spent towards the various welfare Schemes for the Welfare and development of Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, Handicapped, Minorities and Backward Classes.

Child and Aged Welfare and Social Defence.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) (i) A scheme for providing financial assistance to Other Back ward Classes is administered through the National Backward Classes Fin ance and Development Corporation;

(ii) A scheme for providing grant-in-aid for NGOs that run Coaching Centres to train candi dates who aspire to pass the Civil Services examinations is under implimentation. Among others, candidates belonging to OBCs are also admitted in these Coaching Centres.

Help rendered to Society for Welfare Schemes

7284. SHRI MISA. R. GANESAN;
SHRI TINDIVANAM G. VENKATRAMAN:

Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) what part of the society is covered by the welfare scnomes,

(b) whether there are specific norms or guidelines from Government in this regard; and

(c) if not, the authority which decides about the various schemes to be extended under the welfare head?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WELFARE (SHRI K. V. THANGKA BALU): (a) The Welfare Schemes administered by Ministry of Welfare cover the welfare and development of Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, Minorities, Other Backward Classes, Phy-sicaly Handicapped, Victims of Drug Abuse and Alcoholism, Destitute & Orphan Children and Aged Persons.

(b) Specific norms and guidelines have been laid down by Government for administering the various welfare schemes.

(<•) Does not arise,